



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-2**

July 1, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY  
EVALUATION SERVICES  
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with URS Corporation effective as of the award of the Agreement, for the period of one year ending June 30, 2005, at a total cost not to exceed \$179,500. Funding will be provided by the County's Solid Waste Management Fund (GD1 Fund) in Fiscal Year 2004-05 and will be reimbursed entirely by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County with no net impact on the County General Fund.

The purpose of the Agreement is to develop screening criteria to rank potential conversion technologies and material recycling facilities in order to evaluate the possible development of a conversion technology facility in Southern California.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In compliance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the County of Los Angeles is required to divert 50 percent of its waste from disposal at landfills and transformation facilities (incinerators) and to administer the

Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element which ensures adequate disposal capacity for all 89 jurisdictions within the County of Los Angeles for a minimum of 15 years. Since enactment of AB 939, local governments grappled with the best methods of meeting the requirements of the law including how to promote the development of alternatives to incineration and landfilling. Conversion technologies are a major emerging alternative to landfilling and incineration. Conversion technologies are processes that can convert residual solid waste into renewable and environmentally benign fuels, chemicals, and other sources of clean energy including electricity via diverse processes such as gasification, pyrolysis, and hydrolysis. These technologies are a reflection of our technological advances to bring about improvements to our quality of life and the environment while complying with strict environmental standards and up-front recovery of recyclable materials prior to the conversion process.

In support of jurisdictions' efforts to enhance the County's solid waste management system and comply with the provisions of AB 939, on May 20, 1999, the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force adopted a series of recommendations. These recommendations included promoting and developing alternatives to landfills and incinerators such as conversion technologies. On July 27, 1999, your Board unanimously adopted the Task Force's recommendations. As a part of the motion, your Board instructed the Director of Public Works to pursue and implement, at the County level, those recommendations that do not require changes in State law or regulations.

Following your action, and in order to protect public health and safety and ensure adequate future disposal capacity is maintained, we have proactively and aggressively implemented waste diversion programs, supported efforts to enhance in-County disposal capacity, and promoted alternatives to disposal at landfills and incinerators. For example, we have worked with the Sanitation Districts, as a condition of approval of the land-use permit for the Puente Hills Landfill, to provide up to \$100,000 per year for ten years to the County to conduct studies on conversion technologies. The Sanitation Districts has also committed to consider additional funding to develop a facility in Southern California should a viable conversion technology be identified. In addition, the land-use permit requires the County to initiate the formation of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee of the Task Force comprised of experts whose sole responsibility is to investigate and promote conversion technologies. The proposed study's scope of work was developed with the assistance of this Subcommittee.

In continued support of these efforts, we recommend your Board award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with URS Corporation.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Awarding this Agreement will meet the County Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness which focuses on ensuring service delivery systems are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented because the expertise and experience to perform the required services are not currently available within Public Works.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost for this Agreement is \$179,500. The County's Solid Waste Management Fund (GD1 Fund) in Fiscal Year 2004-05 will be utilized to fund the Agreement; however, costs will be reimbursed entirely by the Sanitation Districts as a requirement of the land use permit issued to the Puente Hills Landfill. There will be no net impact on the County General Fund.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

A standard Consultant Services Agreement, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring of qualified displaced County employees will be included.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration of a contract award, URS Corporation is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program participants for future employment.

URS Corporation is in full compliance with the Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program).

The Agreement also contains provisions requiring the consultant to comply with the County's Contractor Employee Jury Service Program and the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the Agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

A finding of environmental impacts is not required for the execution of this Agreement.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On May 3, 2004, Public Works issued a Request for Proposal to 29 firms for the project. Three firms responded to the request. An Evaluation Committee, consisting of Public Works' staff and seven members of the Subcommittee evaluated the proposals. The evaluation of the firms was based on general quality and responsiveness of the overall proposal, qualifications and experience, standard services and work plan, and deliverables schedule and cost. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the Evaluation Committee recommended URS Corporation as the most qualified firm to provide Conversion Technology evaluation services.

Participation by the Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good-faith efforts to utilize CBEs. URS Corporation is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and their proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works.

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, the Request for Proposal was also posted on the County's Office of Small Business website.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended evaluation services.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 1, 2004  
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**CONCLUSION**

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel